

Date

Steven Scheckman  
Schiff, Scheckman & White, LLP  
829 Baronne Street  
New Orleans, LA 70113

**Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2015-1256**

Dear Mr. Scheckman:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, in its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, at its January 15, 2016 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion concerning the propriety of your client, a Louisiana District Court Judge<sup>1</sup>, using campaign funds to reimburse himself for attorney fees expended in successfully defending a formal charge that was filed by the Judiciary Commission. You stated that the formal charge alleged that your client in his official capacity as a Louisiana District Court Judge, should have recused himself pursuant to La. C.C.P. art. 151B(4) and Canon 3C of the Code of Judicial Conduct during a hearing that was held in which a temporary restraining order was issued. You also stated that the formal charge against your client was not proven by clear and convincing evidence, and the matter was closed by the Judiciary Commission.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act permits your client, a Louisiana District Court Judge, to use campaign funds to reimburse himself for attorney fees expended in successfully defending a formal charge that was filed by the Judiciary Commission. La. R.S. 18:1505.21 allows a candidate to expend campaign funds for any lawful purpose if the expenditure is not for personal use and is related to the candidate's campaign or holding of office. Since the formal charge involved a matter directly related to your client's holding of office, he may use campaign funds to pay for the legal fees incurred in connection with his defense.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

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Jennifer T. Land  
For the Board

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<sup>1</sup> The name of the District Court Judge is omitted based on Louisiana Supreme Court Rule 23 Section 23 which requires this information to remain confidential as it is related to a proceeding before the Judiciary Commission.